Discussion about terrorism with US President

1943. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had discussed with US President regarding the terrorists attacks both in India and London during his recent visit to that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the President of USA had given any firm commitment to fight terrorists menace jointly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The issue did feature in discussions during Prime Minister's recent visit to the United States. Recent developments regarding terrorist incidents in different parts of the world, including India, were covered.

(c) and (d) The Joint Statement issued after the talks with President Bush applauded the active and vigorous counter terrorism cooperation between the two countries. It recognised that terrorism is a global scourge and one that India and United States will fight everywhere. It also committed the two nations to the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism.

Anti Indian activities in neighbouring countries

†1944. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a great spurt has been seen in anti-India activities these days in Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are planning to raise these issues in the meeting of UNO or SAARC?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Details of answers for (a) and (b) are as follows:

Nepal

The Government of India is concerned about the misuse of open India-Nepal border and the Nepalese territory by terrorists and criminal elements for activities against India's interests. In this context, we have stressed the need for closer coordination and increased vigil. The Nepalese side has given the assurance for enhanced cooperation in this regard and has conveyed its resolve not to allow its territory to be misused for activities directed against India. A network of bilateral institutional mechanisms has been evolved which includes Home Secretary level Talks, Joint Working Group on Border Management and Bilateral Consultative Group on Security Issues to jointly address issues relating to maintenance of peace and security and prevention of criminal activities in teh India-Nepal border areas. The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been deployed along the border with Nepal to strengthen security in the border areas.

Bangladesh

There has not been any great spurt of anti-India activities in Bangladesh. From the media reports we are receiving, Bangladesh Government is carrying out sporadic attacks on Indian Insurgent groups operating from Bangladesh territory.

Pakistan

A number of terrorist camps have been reactivated in Pakistan in the recent past. The level of infiltration across LoC/IB has increased substantially in June-July 2005 as compared to the earlier months of this year. The Government has, in its interaction with Pakistan at all levels, continuously stressed the fact that Pakistan has so far not taken any significant action to dismantle the infrastructure of support to terrorism, such as communications, launching pads, training camps, funding, etc. The Government have always made it clear that the India-Pakistan peace process can be sustained only in an atmosphere free from terrorism and violence and is critically dependent on the fulfilment of January 6, 2004 commitment of President Musharraf not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

(c) The Government is not planning to take up these issues at the United Nations or the SAARC.

Indo-Iraq economic co-operation

†1945. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to enhance economic cooperation between India and Iraq;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether dialogues have been held in this regard between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the decisions taken as a result of the said dialogues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes, It is proposed to enhance economic cooperation with Iraq through utilization of institutional mechanisms and by promoting increased contacts between the two sides through visits of Iraqi business delegations and businessmen and dissemination of relatec information and provision of humanitarian assistance.

(c) and (d) Yes. The two sides have decided to take steps to enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

Jammu-Sialkot bus route

1946. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open the Jammu to Sialkot bus route in coming days; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (b) India had, in June 2004, during the Foreign Secretary level discussions, as a part of the Composite dialogue, proposed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.